How the IDRA Valued Youth Partnership Works
The Intercultural Development Research Association is an independent, non-profit organization.

Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college.

IDRA provides teacher training, principal coaching, policy analysis, program evaluation, education research and data science work, family and community engagement, and student leadership development.

Linda Cantu, Ph.D.
Senior Consultant & Valued Youth Partnership Program Director
High expectation and high motivation
✓ Academic success
✓ Financial assistance
✓ Belonging and contribution
✓ Inclusion
✓ Responsibility
98% success rate

35,000 students kept in school

725,000+ children, families & educators positively
Recognition and Awards – Sample Listing

Featured as an educational model in many newsletters and journals:
- Center for Corporate Community Relations
- National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education
- National Dropout Prevention Network
- National Education Association
- Points of Light Foundation
- Project Literacy U.S.

Featured as an educational model in books by:
- American Council on Education
- Committee for Economic Development
- Hamilton Fish National Institute on School and Community Violence
- Jobs for the Future
- National Center for Service Learning in Early Adolescence
- Urban Institute
What Is the Valued Youth Partnership?

A cross-age tutoring program
Middle and high school students who are considered at-risk tutor elementary students
At-risk students are supported as *valued youth*, making a contribution
“You can see the excitement in the students’ faces when their tutee spells a word right or gets a math problem right; that’s a different type of success and fulfillment, because it shows them, ‘I helped someone else achieve success.’”

– Lee Hernández, high school principal
Five Instructional Strategies

Cross-age Tutoring
Tutors tutor a minimum of four hours a week for one class period a day.

Classes for Tutors
Tutors meet with their secondary school teacher coordinator once a week.

Educational Field Trips
Tutors go on at least two to three trips to explore career, economic and cultural opportunities.

Mentors and Role-Models
Adults who are considered successful in their fields and who represent students’ ethnic background are invited to participate.

Student Recognition
Students are acknowledged for the efforts and contributions they make as tutors.

Five Support Strategies

Curriculum
Focused on self-concept, tutoring skills and literacy skills.

Coordination
For program monitoring, communication & support.

Staff Enrichment
Provided by IDRA based on campus staff needs.

Parent Involvement
Values the families’ contributions.

Evaluation
Analysis to inform program implementation.
Five Instructional Strategies
Cross-Age Tutoring

Four hours weekly
Hourly stipend and academic credit
Four grade level difference between tutor and tutee
Supervision by committed receiving teachers
Planned instructional tasks within classroom
Classes for Tutors

Weekly sessions

Planning for tutoring

Student-centered instruction
Educational Field Trips

Three per school year

Provide learning opportunities

Minimum expense for tutors
Mentors & Role Models

Five role model visitations

School personnel

Parents

Community leaders
Student Recognition

Tutors are valued throughout the year
End-of-year event
Tutor of the year
Publicity and visibility
Five Support Strategies
Curriculum

Sharpens literacy skills
Promotes tutoring skills
Enhances concept of self
Coordination

Team approach

School-district agreement and support

Planned and structured design

Periodic meeting
Staff Enrichment

Awareness
Skills development
Implementation team
Community and parents
Other school personnel
Family Engagement

Parent consent and support

Family activities based on needs and interests
Evaluation

Quantitative and qualitative research
Monitor tutors
Periodic feedback
Pre-post test score
Decision making
Powerful Impact
Impact on Tutors

Positive self-concept

Greater commitment to succeed and stay in school

Expanded vision of life
Impact on Tutees

Learn basic skills in a safe environment

Get personal attention

Form positive and strong ties
Impact on Families

- Renewed family pride
- Economic support
- Improved communication family, tutor and school
- Family interaction and engagement
Impact on Tutees
- Decreased dropout rate
- Reduced disciplinary measures
- Increased valuing students
- Increased attendance
- Improved communication across schools

Impact on Schools
For over 35 years, the IDRA Valued Youth Partnership has worked with students who are at-risk of academic disengagement by providing meaningful leadership experiences. The outcomes have positively affected student’s confidence and self-worth, attendance and academic achievement.

Valued Youth Program website: https://idra.news/VYP

VYP flier on SEL impact: https://idra.news/VYPimpact

The Hemingway Measure of Adolescent Connectedness & evaluation data show:

- 61% of VYP tutors improved sense of self oriented toward the future
- 59% of VYP tutors improved their sense of involvement in & caring for their families
- 54% of VYP tutors improved their sense of being productive at their school work, enjoying school more & feeling successful at school
- 66% of VYP tutors improved reading test scores
- 57% of VYP tutors improved math scores
What students say about the IDRA Valued Youth Partnership program

“The VYP made me open my eyes and has given me reasons that I should come to school every day, and That’s exactly what I'm doing for my Pre-K tutees.”

– high school tutor

“I’m the youngest of four kids, and I will be the first to graduate from high school. I would not be graduating if I wasn’t a tutor.”

– middle school tutor

“I thought that I wasn’t good because I had many problems. I thought I was a nobody, but when I started talking to my tutees and working with them, I felt different. Now I know that I can be somebody, and I can help others to do the same.”

– middle school tutor
IDRA’s fee for training, materials and evaluation is $15,000 for up to 25 tutors in a school. There are discounts for multiple schools in a district.

Other costs that are variable include such items as tutor compensation, teacher stipend, transportation.

**Target Your Federal Relief Funds**

A district must reserve at least 20% of its American Rescue Plan ESSER allocation to “address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure that those interventions respond to students’ social, emotional and academic needs.”

U.S. Department of Education Fact Sheet

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Intercultural Development Research Association

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